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Commission on Science and Technology for Development

Report on the seventh session (24-28 May 2004)

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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Summary

The role of science and technology in economic and social development is emerging as one of the most important issues in international development policy. Issues related to science and technology are emerging as critical elements in meeting the development goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 2000. It is in this context that at its seventh session, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development addressed its main theme, "Promoting the application of science and technology to meet the development goals contained in the Millennium Declaration".

The session provided an opportunity for policy makers, and representatives of civil society and of international and regional organizations, as well as Commission members and eminent resource persons[1] to raise awareness about the importance of science and technology in development and to recommend international and national policies that should be pursued to ensure that science and technology contribute effectively to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. It also provided an opportunity for the sharing of national experiences, particularly in the use of science and technology to alleviate poverty. Many developing countries are unlikely to meet the Millennium Development Goals without a clear political commitment to make science and technology top priorities in their national development agenda. The Commission identified specific measures and actions needed to integrate science and technology in national development strategies.

The role of science and technology in achieving the Millennium Development Goals

The Commission underlined the need to strengthen indigenous scientific and technological capabilities. It stressed that, for developing countries to meet the Millennium Development Goals, they need to effectively harness simple and mature technologies, and access new and emerging technologies, a need that requires technology transfer, technical cooperation and the building of a solid scientific and technological base to allow the development and adaptation of these technologies to local conditions. It was suggested that the issue of intellectual property rights should be revisited to make it more development-friendly.

The Commission suggested that Governments need to demonstrate their political commitment and appreciation of the role of science and technology in development by increasing research and development (R&D) expenditure in science and technology to at least 1 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) and to encourage R&D, engineering and design including in areas involving the assimilation of existing knowledge that address the needs of national development. Governments were also advised to implement fiscal and other incentives to encourage R&D in the private sector and joint projects between private companies and public R&D institutes.

The Commission noted that, in most developing countries, scientific advice tends to be ad hoc and non-central to the decision-making process. The Commission underscored the importance of institutionalizing science advice, including through the creation of national science advisory bodies. Processes should also be established to ensure sustainability and impartiality of science advice. The Commission also

stressed the importance of a broad-based, people-centred and multi-stakeholder approach in policy-making.

The Commission reaffirmed that for developing countries to meet the Millennium Development Goals, they need to strengthen indigenous scientific and technological capabilities, through increased investment in science education, in research and innovation activities, and in infrastructure. The activities of public universities and research institutions should be encouraged to be more relevant to development.

The Commission also underscored the importance of academia/government/industry partnerships, and highlighted the important role of scientific research, technological innovation, technology transfer and technical cooperation in the building of science and technology capabilities.

The Commission reiterated the important role played by women, and the importance of involving women in the decision-making process.

In discussing capacity-building through partnerships and networking, the Commission reiterated the importance of scientific research networks and centres of excellence, facilitating the transfer of technology and know-how, and reversing the negative impact of the brain drain.

The Commission recalled the recent upsurge of open and collaborative projects to create public goods. These projects, often referred to as open access regimes, include free and open source software, the human genome project, the World Wide Web, the single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) consortium, and open academic and scientific journals. These publicly available projects are extremely important, as they enhance the ability of countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. In this regard, it was suggested that the Commission, in collaboration with other partners, explore the possibility of reviewing experiences in open access regimes and convene a multi-stakeholder global forum on open access regimes.

The Commission highlighted the importance of creating a culture among entrepreneurs that appreciates the importance of innovation. Science and technology policy should be closely aligned to industrial development policy. If industrial development is successful, industry will demand science and technology input, thus creating a dynamic system of innovation. The importance of training and rewarding scientists was also highlighted. In order to support innovation and to strengthen the diffusion and commercialization of technology, Governments need to encourage venture capital and other forms of financial intermediaries from both public and private sources.

The Commission also highlighted the crucial importance of technological indicators and benchmarks in monitoring and assessing progress.

Monitoring and assessing progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals

The Commission was called upon to function as a global forum for the exchange of best practices and lessons learned in individual countries' efforts to apply science and technology in order to achieve their development goals. In this regard, the Commission was requested to establish, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme and other institutions dealing with the use of

science, technology and innovation in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, mechanisms for the ongoing review, evaluation and analysis of national strategies for achieving the Millennium Development Goals to ensure that science and technology would play a central role. To this end, the Commission was invited to consider the feasibility of developing a reliable tool to monitor implementation and benchmark progress.

Given that most targets in the United Nations Millennium Declaration are to be met by 2015, the Commission highlighted the crucial importance of technological indicators and benchmarks in monitoring and assessing progress. It was pointed out that existing parameters on science and technology indicators, such as R&D expenditure and the number of patent applications, are not necessarily appropriate for developing countries and may even lead to inappropriate policy choices.

The Commission was encouraged to consider the feasibility of developing more meaningful and useful science and technology indicators for developing countries, which measure, inter alia, linkages between various actors in the system of innovation, and vocational training for technicians. In this regard, the Commission was requested to consider the feasibility of developing technology achievement indicators and benchmarks, similar to those produced by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) for its member countries. These indicators and benchmarks would be published in an annual world technology for development report which would also include a review of emerging technologies and related policies, as well as best practices and case studies on the application of science and technology towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Updated annually, this publication would make an important contribution to policy makers in developing countries and demonstrate the important linkage among science, technology and development.

The Commission welcomed the sharing of country experiences through the presentation of country reports. There was general agreement that future reporting and discussion should focus on drawing policy lessons, with a view to applying successful strategies to other countries.

Science and technology activities in the context of the EC-ESA

Participants reaffirmed the unique role and mandate of the Commission as the only high-level United Nations entity established to provide high-quality advice to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on science and technology for development. The primary role of the Commission remains that of a policy "think tank", which studies the role of science and technology for development, including the opportunities and risks presented by new and emerging technologies.

The importance of the Commission's work on its Science and Technology for Development Network[2] and the information and communication technologies (ICT) benchmarking tool[3] was highlighted. The Commission called for the development of similar tools to allow policy makers in developing countries to share experiences and benchmark progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

There was general agreement that efforts should be made to further disseminate the work of the Commission to national Governments, and to actively engage other stakeholders in the development process to assist the Commission in carrying out its

work. In this regard, a task force was set up to study ways and means of improving the work of the Commission. The report of this task force will be used as a basis for the report of the Commission on its methods of work, which will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council no later than 2005.

Given that a large amount of work has been carried out on issues related to technology transfer, which is of crucial importance to developing countries, there was general agreement that the Commission should explore means of contributing further to the policy debate in this area. Several participants highlighted the problem of brain drain and requested the Commission to further focus its efforts on helping developing countries identify ways to turn brain drain into brain gain.

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[1] Resource persons included Nobel Laureate Professor Sir John Sulston, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; Ambassador Walter Lichem, Director-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Austria; and Professor Calestous Juma, Coordinator of the Millennium Development Goals Task Force on Science, Technology and Innovation and Professor at Harvard University.

[2] http://www.unctad.org/stdev.

[3] See ICT benchmarking tool product report (New York and Geneva, 2003) Tool (UNCTAD/ITE/IPC/2003/11) available from http://www.unctad.org/stdev/ictbenchmark. Report available from www.gtz.de/ICT-PrivateSector/. Path: UN ICTs Benchmarking Tool (accessed 23 June 2004).

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft resolution

1. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Science and technology for development*

I. Promoting the application of science and technology to meet the development goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration

The Economic and Social Council,

Welcoming the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its theme "Promoting the application of science and technology to meet the development goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration" and taking note of the findings, which include, inter alia, the following:

1. Most developing countries are unlikely to meet the Millennium Development Goals without a clear political commitment to make science and technology top priorities in their development agenda;

2. Many developing countries lack solid science and technology bases. Science and technology institutions and national innovation systems in many developing countries are fragmented and uncoordinated and links between them and the private business sector are poorly developed. Review and analysis of national science, technology and innovation policies and institutional and legal frameworks, including advisory bodies and mechanisms, are urgently needed to ensure that they serve the needs of development effectively;

3. The lack of a solid science and technology base not only results from poor human and capital resources, but also stems from a lack of appreciation of the critical role of science and technology in development, as well as from an incoherent methodology for establishing such a base and the absence of a coherent policy addressing national needs and human and capital resources;

4. For developing countries to meet the Millennium Development Goals, they need access to new and emerging technologies, which requires technology transfer, technical cooperation and the building and nurturing of a scientific and technological capacity to participate in the development and adaptation of these technologies to local conditions;

5. Promoting the development and application of new and emerging technologies, most notably biotechnology and information and communication technologies as well as biomedical and environmental technologies, will both reduce the cost and increase the likelihood of attaining the Millennium Development Goals;

* For the discussion, see chap. II.

6. Academia/government/industry partnerships and networking are essential in building scientific and technological capabilities and fostering policies and developments. Science and technology parks, business incubators and support organizations for innovation are effective mechanisms for promoting academia/government/industry partnerships and entrepreneurship;

7. The current North-South gap in respect of the generation and application of new and emerging technologies and their contribution to economic and social development constitutes a "technological divide" which must be bridged if developing countries are to participate effectively in a global inclusive knowledge society;

8. States need to invest in publicly funded universities and research institutions to improve infrastructure, quality of education and human resources. To enhance the impact of investment, Governments should consider linking funding of universities to performance in teaching and research;

9. Despite the efforts of various development agencies, poverty still persists in many parts of the world. There is a need to coordinate technical cooperation programmes and to monitor progress to ensure policy coherence and socio-economic benefits for the poor;

10. In recent years, there has been a rapid rise in the number of open and collaborative projects to create public goods. These projects are extremely important, as they affect the ability of countries to achieve the development goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;[1]

Decides to make the following recommendations for consideration by national Governments and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development:

(a) Governments are encouraged to undertake the following actions:

(i) Demonstrate their political commitment by increasing research and development expenditure in science and technology to at least 1 per cent of gross domestic product and encourage research and development, engineering and design including in areas involving the assimilation of existing knowledge that address the needs of national development;

(ii) Establish and/or enhance national advisory bodies and their linkages to provide systematic and institutionalized science and technology advice to various branches of government responsible for coordinating and implementing development strategies;

(iii) Implement fiscal and other incentives to encourage research and development in the private sector and joint projects between private companies and public research and development institutes;

(iv) Strengthen universities and research institutions and develop centres of excellence in the fields of science and technology and encourage them to contribute to national development;

(v) Increase investment in scientific and technical education, particularly at tertiary and vocational levels, and adopt concrete measures to increase the enrolment of girls and women in scientific and engineering disciplines and

[1] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

ensure their representation in science and technology, particularly in decision-making positions;

(vi) Adopt special measures to attract and retain young and talented scientists and technologists, and establish close ties with expatriate scientists and engineers and encourage their participation in national development;

(vii) Strengthen the diffusion and commercialization of technology by encouraging venture capital and other forms of financial intermediaries supporting innovation from both public and private sources and establishing facilitatory institutions such as science parks and technology incubators;

(viii) Explore the potential of openly available public development projects for the enhancement of science and technology infrastructure;

(ix) Raise public awareness on the importance of science and technology in development and, in particular, the benefits, opportunities and risks of new and emerging technologies;

(b) The Commission on Science and Technology for Development, within its mandate as coordinator of science and technology activities in the United Nations system, is requested to:

(i) Forge links between itself and national science and technology bodies in each country, in order to promote networking, share national experiences, facilitate information flows and increase the impact of the Commission's work. In this regard, the Commission is invited to establish an international network of science and technology institutions, including national science and technology commissions and other stakeholders in development such as the international research centres of the Trieste System. The new association would meet annually in conjunction with the regular sessions of the Commission;

(ii) Establish, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme and other institutions dealing with the use of science, technology and innovation in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, mechanisms for the ongoing review, evaluation and analysis of national strategies for achieving the Millennium Development Goals to ensure that science and technology play a central role. To this end, the Commission is invited to consider the feasibility of developing a reliable tool to monitor implementation and benchmark progress;

(iii) Explore the possibility of establishing new initiatives involving important development partners, such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development,[2] with a view to enhancing closer South-South and North-South collaboration in the area of science and technology;

(iv) Explore the feasibility of preparing and producing an annual world technology for development report that would include: technology achievement indicators and benchmarks, and a review of emerging technologies and related policies, as well as best practices and case studies on the application of science and technology towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

[2] A/57/304, annex.

(v) Provide a forum within the Science and Technology for Development Network[3] within which success stories and lessons learned could be shared in respect of national efforts to apply science and technology to serve the needs of development;

(vi) Interact closely with the United Nations Information and Communication Technologies Task Force, the International Telecommunication Union and regional commissions in order to assist developing countries in the implementation of national action plans to support the fulfilment of the goals indicated in the Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society[4] and contribute to the preparation of the second phase of the Summit, to be held in Tunis in November 2005.

II. New substantive theme and other activities

The Commission on Science and Technology for Development,

Recognizing that the implementation of the development goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[1] entails significant reorientation in the use of science, technology and innovation policies to ensure that they serve the needs of development, especially for poverty reduction,

Recognizing also that national advisory bodies are essential in providing systematic and institutionalized science and technology advice to the executive and other branches of the government responsible for coordinating and implementing development strategies,

Taking note of the Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society, adopted in Geneva in December 2003,[4]

Decides to select as its substantive theme for the intersessional period 2004-2005 "Science and technology promotion, advice and application for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration" and considers that specific emphasis should be placed on at least three key areas: the mutual interaction and dependency of science and technology education with research and development; infrastructure-building as a foundation for scientific and technological development; and promoting gainful employment in general and enterprise development, in particular through the use of existing and emerging technologies, especially information and communication technologies and biotechnologies.

B. Draft decisions

2. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

[3] http://www.unctad.org/stdev.

[4] Available from http://www.itu.int/wsis/.

Draft decision I
Contribution of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council*

The Economic and Social Council takes note, during its consideration at its high-level segment of the theme "Resources mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010", of the contribution of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on this topic, which was addressed by the Commission at its seventh session in 2004 under the substantive theme "Promoting the application of science and technology to meet the development goals contained in the Millennium Declaration", and encourages all stakeholders to consider the recommendations thereon, contained in the report of the Commission on its seventh session.

Draft decision II
Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its seventh session and provisional agenda and documentation for the eighth session of the Commission**

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its seventh session;

(b) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the eighth session of the Commission as set out below.

Provisional agenda and documentation for the eighth session of the Commission

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. Substantive theme: "Science and technology promotion, advice and application for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration".

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

3. Note on implementation of and progress made on decisions taken at the seventh session of the Commission.

* For the discussion, see chap. II.
** For the discussion, see chap. VI.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat

4. National country reports.

5. Contribution of international organizations to the work of the Commission.

6. Methods of work of the Commission.

7. Election of the Chairperson and other officers for the ninth session of the Commission.

8. Provisional agenda and documentation for the ninth session of the Commission.

9. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its eighth session.

C. Decision brought to the attention of the Council

3. The following decision adopted by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development is brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council:

Decision 7/101
Report of the Secretary-General on promoting the application of science and technology to meet the Development Goals contained in the Millennium Declaration

The Commission on Science and Technology for Development takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on promoting the application of science and technology to meet the Development Goals contained in the Millennium Declaration (E/CN.16/2004/2).

Chapter II

Substantive theme: "Promoting the application of science and technology to meet the development goals contained in the Millennium Declaration", with particular attention to policies and measures that would (a) improve the policy environment for the application of science and technology to development, (b) strengthen basic and applied research in developing countries, (c) strengthen technology support institutions and science advisory mechanisms and (d) promote affordable universal Internet access

1. The Commission considered item 2 of its agenda at its 1st to 5th and 7th to 9th meetings, from 24 to 28 May 2004. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on promoting the application of science and technology to meet the Development Goals contained in the Millennium Declaration (E/CN.16/2004/2).

2. At its 1st to 5th meetings, from 24 to 26 May, the Commission held a discussion on the item.

3. At the 1st meeting, on 24 May, statements were made by the following invited guests: Professor John Sulston, Nobel Laureate in Medicine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; Ambassador Walter Lichem, Director-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Austria; and Mr. Calestous Juma, Coordinator of the Millennium Development Goals Task Force on Science, Technology and Innovation and Professor at Harvard University.

4. At the same meeting, the invited guests responded to points raised by the delegations of Austria, Cameroon, the Sudan, South Africa, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Philippines.

5. At its 2nd meeting, on 24 May, the Commission heard introductory statements by the Chairman and the Chief of the Science and Technology Section of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

6. At the same meeting, Mr. Jean-Marie Leclerc, Director-General of the Centre for Information Technologies of the State of Geneva, addressed the Commission.

7. Also at the 2nd meeting, statements were made by the following keynote speakers who had been invited to address the Commission on the topic of strengthening basic and applied research in developing countries and international scientific networking: Ambassador Claudio Moreno, General Coordinator for Trieste Expo 2008 Candidacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italy; Ms. Maria Cristina Pedicchio, President, Area Science Park, Trieste, Italy; Mr. Arturo Falaschi, Director-General, International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, Trieste, Italy; Mr. Stanislav Miertus, International Centre for Science and High Technology, United Nations Industrial Development Organization; and Mr. Pierpaolo Ferrante, Project Manager, Trieste Expo 2008 Challenge.

8. At the same meeting, the keynote speakers responded to questions raised by the delegations of South Africa, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone and Sri Lanka.

9. At the 3rd meeting, on 25 May, statements were made by the following keynote speakers who had been invited to address the Commission on the topic of strengthening technology support institutions and building human capacity: Mr. Hameed Ahmed Khan, Executive Director, Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South; and Mr. Mohammad Taeb, Coordinator for Science and Technology, United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies.

10. At the same meeting, the keynote speakers responded to points raised by the delegations of Austria, Germany, India, South Africa, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Sudan, Lesotho, Cameroon, Morocco, the Philippines, Chile, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ghana, China and Italy as well as the Chairman and the representatives of the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

11. At the 4th meeting, on 25 May, statements were made by the following keynote speakers who had been invited to address the Commission on the topic of improving the policy environment for the application of science and technology to development: Mr. Haji Abdul Aziz bin Abdul Manan, Secretary-General of the World Association of Industrial and Technological Research Organizations; and Mr. Dhesigen Naidoo, Deputy Director-General, Ministry of Science and Technology, South Africa.

12. At the same meeting, the keynote speakers responded to points raised by the delegations of Austria, Angola, Romania, Thailand, Italy, Sierra Leone, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Sudan, Cameroon, Ghana, Morocco and Ethiopia and the representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

13. At the 5th meeting, on 26 May, statements were made by the representatives of the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Action taken by the Commission

Science and technology for development

14. At the 8th meeting, on 27 May, the Vice-Chairman of the Commission with rapporteurial responsibilities, Mr. Vijaya Kumar (Sri Lanka), made a statement regarding a draft resolution entitled "Science and technology for development", which had been submitted by the Chairman in an informal paper.

15. At its 9th meeting, on 28 May, the Commission was informed that the draft resolution, as amended during informal consultations, had no programme budget implications.

16. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Romania, Austria, India and Morocco, the observer for Zambia and the Rapporteur, who responded to points raised.

17. Also at its 9th meeting, the Commission decided to recommend the text of the draft resolution, as amended, to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A).

Contribution of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council

18. At the 8th meeting, on 27 May, the Vice-Chairman of the Commission with rapporteurial responsibilities, Mr. Vijaya Kumar (Sri Lanka), made a statement regarding a draft decision entitled "Contribution of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council", which had been submitted by the Chairman in an informal paper.

19. At its 9th meeting, on 28 May, the Commission was informed that the draft decision had no programme budget implications.

20. At the same meeting, the Commission decided to recommend the text of the draft decision to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. B, draft decision I).

Report of the Secretary-General on promoting the application of science and technology to meet the Development Goals contained in the Millennium Declaration

21. At its 9th meeting, on 28 May, upon the proposal of the Chairman, the Commission decided to take note of the report of the Secretary-General submitted under agenda item 2 (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 7/101).

Chapter III

Implementation of and progress made on decisions taken at the sixth regular session of the Commission

1. The Commission considered item 3 of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 26 May 2004. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the implementation of and progress made on decisions taken at the sixth session of the Commission (E/CN.16/2004/3).

2. At the same meeting, the Chief of the Science and Technology Section of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development made an introductory statement and responded to points raised by the delegations of Cameroon, India, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, South Africa, Germany, Austria, Morocco, China, Romania and Ghana.

Chapter IV
National country reports

1. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its 6th meeting on 26 May 2004, during which it heard an introductory statement by the Chairman.

2. At the same meeting, presentations were made by the representatives of Romania, Morocco, the Philippines, India, Ghana, the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

3. Also at the 6th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Philippines, Ethiopia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Bolivia, Morocco, Thailand, Austria, Romania, Lesotho, China, Italy and Sierra Leone.

Chapter V

Election of the Chairperson and other officers for the eighth session of the Commission

1. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 7th and 8th meetings, on 27 May 2004, at which it elected by acclamation the following officers for its eighth session:

Chairman:

Mr. Bernd Michael Rode (Austria)

Vice-Chairpersons:

Mr. Hamid Bouabid (Morocco)
Mr. Jin Ju (China)
Ms. Rolanda Predescu (Romania)
Mr. Arnoldo Ventura (Jamaica)

Chapter VI

Provisional agenda and documentation for the eighth session of the Commission

1. The Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 9th meeting, on 28 May 2004. It had before it an informal paper containing the draft provisional agenda and documentation for its eighth session, which was introduced and orally revised by the Chief of the Science and Technology Section of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

2. Statements were made by the representatives of Morocco, Italy, Austria, the Sudan, Sierra Leone and Romania.

3. At the same meeting, the Chairman, as well as the Chief of the Science and Technology Section of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Secretary of the Commission, responded to points raised.

4. Also at its 9th meeting, the Commission approved the draft provisional agenda and documentation for its eighth session, as orally revised, and recommended the text thereof to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. B, draft decision II).

Chapter VII

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its seventh session

1. At the 9th meeting, on 28 May 2004, the Vice-Chairman of the Commission with rapporteurial responsibilities, Mr. Vijaya Kumar (Sri Lanka), introduced the draft report of the Commission on its seventh session (E/CN.16/2004/L.1).

2. Statements were made by the representatives of the Russian Federation, Italy, the Sudan, Austria, Slovakia and Sierra Leone.

3. At the same meeting, the Rapporteur, as well as the Chief of the Science and Technology Section of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Secretary of the Commission, responded to points raised.

4. Also at its 9th meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report on its seventh session and entrusted the Rapporteur with its completion.

Chapter VIII
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development held its seventh session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 24 to 28 May 2004. The Commission held nine meetings (1st to 9th).

2. The session was opened by the Chairman, Mr. Arnoldo Ventura (Jamaica), who also made an opening statement.

3. At the 1st meeting, on 24 May, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development addressed the Commission.

B. Attendance

4. The session was attended by representatives of 27 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended. The list of participants for the session is contained in document E/CN.16/2004/INF/1.

C. Election of officers

5. At the 10th meeting of its sixth session, on 9 May 2003, the Commission had elected the following members of the Bureau of its seventh session by acclamation:

Chairman:
Mr. Arnoldo Ventura (Jamaica)

Vice-Chairpersons:
Mrs. Galina Butovskaya (Belarus)
Mr. Vijaya Kumar (Sri Lanka)
Mr. Jesús Martínez Frías (Spain)
Mr. Zacharie Perevet (Cameroon)

6. At its the 1st meeting of its seventh session, on 24 May 2004, the Commission designated Mr. Vijaya Kumar (Sri Lanka) Vice-Chairman with rapporteurial responsibilities.

D. Agenda and organization of work

7. At its 1st meeting, on 24 May 2004, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda and approved its organization of work, as contained in document E/CN.16/2004/1, as corrected. The agenda, as corrected, read as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. Substantive theme: "Promoting the application of science and technology to meet the development goals contained in the Millennium Declaration", with particular attention to policies and measures that would (a) improve

the policy environment for the application of science and technology to development, (b) strengthen basic and applied research in developing countries, (c) strengthen technology support institutions and science advisory mechanisms and (d) promote affordable universal Internet access.

3. Implementation of and progress made on decisions taken at the sixth regular session of the Commission.

4. National country reports.

5. Election of the Chairperson and other officers for the eighth regular session of the Commission.

6. Provisional agenda and documentation for the eighth session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its seventh session.

E. Documentation

8. The documents before the Commission at its seventh session are listed in the annex to the present report.

Action taken by the Commission

Methods of work of the Commission

9. At its 5th meeting, on 26 May, following statements by the representatives of Chile, Sierra Leone, Italy, Bolivia and Ghana and the observers for South Africa, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Zambia, the Commission established a task force on the dissemination and impact of the recommendations of the Commission on national development, to be chaired by the representative of India.

10. At the 7th meeting, on 27 May, the Chief of the Science and Technology Section of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development made a statement and responded to points raised by the delegations of the Philippines, Zambia, Sierra Leone, China, Romania, Morocco, Austria, Ghana, the Sudan, Germany, Italy and Lesotho.

11. At the same meeting, the representative of the United Nations University made a statement.

12. At the 8th meeting, on 27 May, the representative of India reported on the outcome of the work of the task force on the dissemination and impact of the recommendations of the Commission on national development.

13. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Austria, Morocco, Lesotho, the Sudan, Ghana, Sierra Leone, India and Slovakia and the observer for Zambia.

14. Also at the 8th meeting, representatives of the Science and Technology Section of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development responded to points raised.

15. At the same meeting, the Commission agreed to incorporate the recommendations of the task force and the comments made thereon into a report to be submitted to the Commission at its next session, in response to General Assembly resolution 57/270 B.

Annex

List of documents before the Commission at its seventh session

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/CN.16/2004/1	1	Provisional annotated agenda and organization of work
E/CN.16/2004/2	2	Report of the Secretary-General: promoting the application of science and technology to meet the Development Goals contained in the Millennium Declaration
E/CN.16/2004/3	3	Note by the secretariat on the implementation of and progress made on decisions taken at the sixth session of the Commission
E/CN.16/2004/L.1	7	Draft report of the Commission on its seventh session
E/CN.16/2004/CRP.2	4	National country reports

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